

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, November 15, 1896, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. 1331 Connecticut Avenue. Nov. 15th 1896. My darling Alec:

I don't believe there's any use one's sitting up and working on an original composition when one is tired out. The work really doesn't advance. At least this is the conclusion I have just come to after working on my letter to Mr. Blanchard. Yet I am in such a hurry to get it off, I have covered reams and reams of paper and this morning I got my ideas into harness and drove them all together although I had to turn back many times to pick up things fallen by the wayside. Tonight however the reins lie loose in my hands and my team is all over the meadow browsing among the wild flowers and I can't get it together to go ahead. So I have given it up as a bad job and am writing you.

What an excitement about the scarlet fever. I am so glad you had the other children over at Beinn Bhreagh and hope they have really escaped. Your letter telling of teaching Susie the signs of the zodiac was the nicest I have had for a long time, and I was so glad you could forget flying machines etc., for a little while and enjoy the children. You poor dear boy, you do love the little ones so much, and I do so wish you might have had a troop of them of your own.

We dined with Mamma and met Dr. and Mrs. Gilman, Dr. Andrew D. White and Mr. Stanley Brown. All had been working more or less hard for McKinley and all were triumphant. Dr. White does not fear Bryan's future influence on the labor vote, but Stanley Brown does. He said Bryan's nomination was not spontaneous, but all cut and dried beforehand. Then a Mr. French came, he has just returned from Liberia, he says the best thing for it would be annexation to England, it is an utterly, hopeless, bankrupt,

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corrupt state, a church to every 75 people but no schools no hospital or charitable institution, no hope or effort and the fatal fever reducing the numbers rapidly.

I fell from my bicycle three or four times yesterday, all my own fault because I tried experiments, but I am getting along quite nicely. Don't forget to bring your wheel so we can have some fun. My right arm got strained in the last fall so excuse writing. I will send Mrs. Ellis cheque for \$200.

Ever yours, Mabel.